CLAIMS

1. A method in a computer automated data processing system for identification, management and retrieval of engineering drawings in digital format wherein all the digital data is analysed by the central processing unit in accordance with predefined algorithms to identify individual engineering drawings and specific information contained within each said drawing and wherein the said specific information may be stored in accordance with predefined criteria in a suitable storage means and wherein each said drawing may be identified and located by using an appropriate search engine to search the storage means against said the predefined criteria.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the digital data is analysed by the central processing unit in accordance with predefined algorithms to identify the boundary of each individual engineering drawing.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the digital data is analysed by the central processing unit in accordance with predefined algorithms to identify textual information contained within each individual engineering drawing.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the digital data is analysed by the central processing unit in accordance with predefined algorithms to identify a series of discrete boxes in an orderly arrangement containing textual content.

5. A method as claimed in claim 3 above wherein the textual information contained within each engineering drawing may be stored in
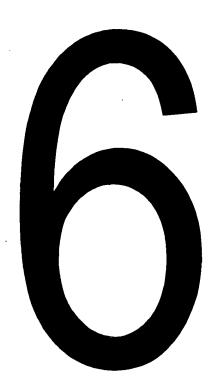
accordance with predefined criteria in a suitable storage means to enable the said engineering drawing to be identified by reference to the said textual information.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the central processing unit analyses the textual information contained within each individual text box in accordance with predefined algorithms to identify predefined keywords within the said text boxes and wherein if such keywords are identified within the said text boxes the central processing unit further analyses the data contained within the said text box to ascertain whether further textual information is contained within the said text box and wherein if further textual information is located within the said text box the said further textual information contained within each individual text box may be stored in accordance with predefined criteria in a suitable storage means to enable the said engineering drawing to be identified by reference to the said textual information.

7. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the engineering drawings stored in the storage means may be located, retrieved and displayed on a suitable display means by reference to the exact textual information sought and wherein the said textual information maybe readily identified by suitable means such as highlighting.

Abstract

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Version 1.1